



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009 MINUTES

Board of Finance

Members Present: R. Clements-Chairman, R. Cleary, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, M. Varney, J. Wehr

Others Present: M. Stupinski-First Selectman, L. Burstein, P. Charter, A. Harford, J. Prichard, J. Turner-Selectmen, N. DiCorleto-Fin Off, P. Michaud-DPW Director, S. Cullinan-Supt of Schools, Center and Crystal Lake Fire Dept members, Journal Inquirer, residents.

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Clements called the Capital Improvements meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 7:37 PM.

Citizen's Forum – None

Board of Selectmen Present 2009-10 FY Capital Improvements

Michael Stupinski, First Selectman, presented the Capital Improvements Budget that the Board of Selectmen approved and forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Road Construction – Road Overlay and Chip Sealing were left in as requested at \$429,310 and \$102,899 respectively. The Unimproved Road Improvements request was eliminated and the Culvert Replacements was left in at \$122,000.

Site Acquisition – Open Space Fund - \$250,000.

Building Construction – Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse-\$45,000 and Town Hall Annex Vault-\$159,000. The Human Services Office Addition was eliminated because the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse would house the Recreation Dept. and eliminate that need.

Building Repairs – Hall Memorial Library storm windows for \$16,000, Revaluation-\$150,000, Town Wide Sidewalks-\$60,000, Recreation Public Park Upgrades-\$12,900. The Library heating unit for \$13,400 will be eliminated from the Capital Improvements Budget tonight if the Board of Finance approves the expenditure from this year's general fund.

Equipment Purchases – The Rescue Pumper for Crystal Lake Fire Dept was not brought forward for funding. EVFD Hydraulic Rescue tools for \$80,000 was brought forward, the EVAC Ambulance and CPR Equipment brought forward and will be funded through the charging fund. One Board of Education Special Education Van for \$24,000 and Police Cruiser for \$43,266 were brought forward for funding.

The final net Capital Improvements Budget that was approved by the Board of Selectmen is \$1,405,776 which is 40% less than presented last year.

Mr. Stupinski is recommending that \$250,000 be restored to the Unimproved Road Improvement Fund to keep the program going and eliminate \$250,000 from the Open Space Fund. There is presently a balance of \$600,000 in the Open Space Fund.

The Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse balance to finish was originally estimated at \$45,000 and is included in this Capital Improvements Budget. Since that time, there have been asbestos and lead paint issues uncovered. Peter Michaud told the Board that he has received a quote of up to \$55,000 just to abate the asbestos and the lead. The outside of the building can be encapsulated with a special paint, but inside has to be abated because it will be used by children through the Recreation Dept. programs. The Fire Marshal and Building Official are requiring an additional fire exit and an additional restroom due to the amount of people that the building can handle for assembling as well as a fire rated ceiling for the basement. To do the abatement and finish the building for use is estimated at an additional \$152,000. The Recreation Director has agreed to move to that location and this will eliminate the need for the expansion at Arbor Commons. The per square foot cost with the added expenses, is still cheaper than constructing a new building. Mr. Michaud is requesting that the Board of Finance fund this item and would like the members that have not seen the building to visit it.

Mr. Clements stated that Mr. Tedford has no problem moving to that location but that at \$151,000, he feels it changes the vision a little. The Board will deliberate on it.

Mr. Michaud stated that the funding as it presently stands will accomplish the abatement of the asbestos and the lead, new windows and door and demolition of the inside. It will not make it a usable building.

Mr. Cleary asked about the rental of the plaza (former supermarket) location. Mr. Michaud stated that the Town owns the old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse. He doesn't see any advantage to putting money into someone else's property to rent. There is no return on investment.

Mr. Cleary stated that the five year plan for the Recreation Dept is to move to Brookside Park.

Mr. Charter stated that the Town needs the office and meeting space in the Crystal Lake area. Mr. Stupinski stated that this will bring the Town 5 years of use before needing to move.

Emergency Services Committee – 12 Month Report

Jack Turner, Chairman of the ESC reviewed the 12 month Emergency Services Committee Report. He stated that the volunteer forces spend most of their time on administrative, training and occurrences. There is now a new subcommittee set up to produce a small equipment report. The Ambulance Corps has been very cooperative using the charging fund for the ID program and for the funding for on-line training. There ESC strongly recommends central purchasing of emergency management supplies. A radio tower for communications for all three emergency services agency will improve radio communications and is an item in the capital improvements budget.

The Fire Depts. are doing long term projections for replacing apparatus. The committee is also working with the Town Attorney on the municipal contracts and there has been good progress on this.


The goals of each Emergency Services Agency have been developed and are in this report.

One item that has come to light is the need to standardize the categorizing of incidents on the report. There needs to be a standard policy for all three agencies for reporting in order to compare the statistics. The five year goals for each agency are also included in the report.

Mr. DiCorleto asked if the statistics for how often other towns cover or assist Ellington was available. Mr. Varney stated that he had the figures, but that it was not in the format of the report. Mr. Turner told Mr. Clements that the Board of Finance has a vacancy on this committee.

Capital Improvements meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Clerk